FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 JULY 1986

Iraq

Saddam Husayn Speech — The Iraqi president addressed the nation in a national day speech carried by Voice of the Masses radio. Saying that economic conflict has become a major battlefield between Iraq and Iran and its allies, President Saddam Husayn noted that a major part of the conspiracy against Iraq was the Syrian decision of 1982 to suspend the flow of Iraqi oil through Syrian territory. The Iraqi leadership was able to contain that "conspiracy," and the economy managed to compensate for "some" of the losses caused by the Syrian closure of the pipeline. Iraq is capable of containing the new economic circumstances just as it did in the past, the president continued. Regarding OPEC production quotas, the president said Iraq does not agree to setting quotas in a manner not in line with its huge reserves, its population, and its legitimate needs, and that the country will not accept a production quota lower than that of Iran's. This issue is a matter of national security and stability in the Gulf, the president continued, pointing out that any increase in Iran's oil revenues increases that country's ability to wage war.

Noting that although the aggression against "countries which are Israel's neighbors" and the danger posed by Iran both constitute threats against pan-Arab security, President Saddam Husayn nevertheless said the most serious threat to the Arab nation is those deviationist stands based on "suspect" alliances that threaten Arab security. Those who allied themselves with Iran bear primary responsibility for the weak solidarity and danger and challenges the Arab nation is currently experiencing, the president continued, adding that Iraq reiterates its support for Arab summit resolutions based on cooperation and solidarity.

On relations with "fraternal" Egypt, Saddam Husayn affirmed their importance and the need to "open the doors of interaction" with that country. Different Arab policies must not prevent cooperation and coordination in any field, he continued. Although Iraq does not ignore the "status quo" with Egypt, nor does it give in to any of its "negative factors," Iraq still calls on the Arabs to agree on any common policy that will strengthen the Arabs' objectives in any country of the Arab homeland.

Solidarity with the Palestinian people remains a central task in pan-Arab action, the president stated. Iraq will provide the necessary means to continue the struggle by backing the PLO, and will show absolute solidarity with the Palestinian people.

On war developments, Saddam Husayn praised the new Iraqi military strategy of attacking the enemy wherever he may be and taking the initiative on the battlefield. Important results have been achieved, including in the Mehran area, he said. Iranian forces sustained heavy losses in regaining that territory, an area not that important strategically, he noted, and Iraqi forces behaved logically in retreating to the international border. Noting that the Iranian leaders are stressing the need to end the war this year and that time is not on their side, the president called upon the Iraqis to inflict a comprehensive defeat upon the Iranians quickly.

Na'im Haddad Replaced — Na'im Haddad was relieved of his membership on the Revolution Command Council, according to INA, which added that the decision was made in accordance with the Iraqi Constitution.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi troops 15-16 July repulsed an attacking Iranian force estimated at more than two regiments, killing at least 307 and wounding many others, according to a military communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio. In later action, Iraqi warplanes hit a large maritime target off the Iranian coast, the communique continued. For Iran's part, a communique cited by IRNA announced that Iraqi warplanes seeking to attack Iranian naval units and economic installations in the Gulf were forced to flee after encountering Iranian jet fighters. Majnun Island shelling resulted in 80 Iraqi casualties, the communique continued.

Saudi Arabia-Iraq

King Fahd received visiting Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, according to Riyadh radio, which did not reveal the content of their talks.

Libya-Saudi Arabia

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received the personal envoy of King Fahd, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported. Al-Qadhdhafi proposed that oil-producing countries stop pumping oil until next winter, and expressed his fear of an extension of the Gulf war, the radio continued.

Israel

Friction Over Bush Visit to Syria — Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejected remarks by a member of the prime minister's office that Israel has no objections if U.S. Vice President George Bush visits Syria after his trip to Israel, *Ha'aretz* reported, adding that Shamir will complain to the prime minister about the official's comments.

U.S. Cluster Bomb Investigation — A Defense Ministry delegation in New York would agree to cooperate in U.S. investigations of the cluster bomb affair, but only if subpoenas against delegation members were rescinded, *Davar* reported.

USSR Consular Ties Rumored — The Soviet Union is signaling its willingness to discuss consular relations, perhaps leading to the establishment of a consulate in Israel, a Jerusalem radio correspondent contended, adding that in an effort to improve its post-Chernobyl agriculture, the USSR sees relations with Israel as a means of improving its standing with the United States. Foreign Ministry sources said there is no sign of such a development, the radio later reported.

Lebanon

A political, nationalist meeting was held at the home of Munir Abu Fadil, deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Beirut radio reported, adding that participants included the prime minister; defense minister; education minister; Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs; Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon; and many officers, among others. Afterward, Abu Fadil told Beirut radio that the meeting allowed those in attendance to discuss the entire Lebanese situation, paying particular attention to the progress made in implementing the security plan in West Beirut. Abu Fadil said all the conferees have noted an improvement in security, and are determined to consolidate and expand the security plan, according to the radio.

Syria

Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met the French president and prime minister in separate meetings in Paris, SANA reported, adding that Khaddam and Francois Mitterrand discussed Middle East issues, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Lebanon. The vice president's talks with Jacques Chirac included the same topics, the agency continued, noting that a cordial, warm atmosphere prevailed during the discussion.

YAR

Presidential decrees were issued relieving the ministers of economy and industry, and supply and trade, Sanaa radio reported. The two ministries were merged into one, the radio added.

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid returned to Algeria for continued convalescence, according to Algiers radio, which added that the president is "near recovery" from his operation.

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Najibullah, Palestinian Leader Discuss Cooperation

LD162109 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, this afternoon at the PDPA Central Committee Headquarters met a Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] delegation headed by Comrade Tal'at Ya'qub, general secretary of the PLF Central Committee.

At this meeting, which took place in a sincere and friendly atmosphere, both sides held talks and exchanged views on cooperation between the two parties, bilateral relations, subjects of mutual interest and international issues.

The BIA reports that Comrade Najibullah in his talk expressed the support of the party, government, and people of Afghanistan for the just cause for an Arab Palestine and wished victory for the progressive forces of Palestine in their just struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Comrade Tal'at Ya'qub, on behalf of the PLF then expressed support for the April Revolution and its gains and wished further success to PDPA for the reconstruction of party and governments system.

At this meeting, both sides expressed their resolute support for the peaceful policy and peace initiatives of the Soviet Union.

The PLF delegation has recently arrived in Kabul for a friendly visit to Afghanistan at the invitation of the party's central committee.

BAKHTAR Cites Reports on Explosion at Rebel Camp

LD150810 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT 15 Jul 86

[Text] Kabul, July 14, *Bakhtar* Ten persons were killed and fifteen were severly injured as a result of an explosion occurred in one of the centers of counterrevolutionaries located in Tari Mangal, according to reports of international mass madia. All the killed and the injured belonged to the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands.

Tari Mangal, the reports add, has the biggest stockpiles of arms and ammunitions of the Afghan counter-revolutionaries from where the weapons are carried by the bandits to the DRA.

This was not the first time, the reports pointed out that, an explosion occurred in Tari Mangal, but up to now a series of explosions have taken place there resulting in death and injury to tens of Afghans counter-revolutionaries. This shows that there are severe inner conflicts among the Afghan counter-revolutionaries in that place.

The counter-revolutionaries groups are fighting against each other to get more share of the assistance provided by their imperialist masters, say the reports. The counter-revolutionary groups blow up the military training camps and arms and ammunition depots of each other in a bid to eliminate the rival groups, the reports added.

AFP: Qandahar Recaptured From Mujahidin

BK140916 Hong Kong AFP in English 0913 GMT 15 Jul 86

[Text] Islamabad, July 15 (AFP) — Soviet and Afghan soldiers have recaptured Qandahar, the second biggest Afghan city which was held by the resistance, Western diplomats said Tuesday.

"Soviet-Afghan troops are patrolling and controlling the city" sources said. The mujahidin are in a "difficult situation" and have their main supplying lines cut, they said.

Soviet-Afghan troops failed in June to recapture Qandahar, a strategic position used by the guerrillas to launch attacks in the southern and western provinces.

Court Sentences Rebel Leader to Death in Absentia

LD161705 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] Kabul, 27 Saratan, (*Bakhtar*) — In accordance with repeated demands of the people, who lost their relatives and dear ones as a result of the brutalities and crimes of the counterrevolutionaries, the trial of a number of leaders of murderous and criminal bands of the counterrevolution began today in absentia.

The first meeting of the DRA Special Revolutionary Court, which was held this morning and was attended by representatives of workers, peasants, religious leaders, artisans, and intellectuals of Kabul city, discussed the inhuman crimes of Ahmad Shah Masud, son of Dost Muhammad, inhabitant of the Bazarak village, Panjsher District, Parvan Province, who, as the leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami band in Panjsher, has played a major role in subversive and counterrevolutionary actions.

A BIA correspondent reports that the judicial delegation of the DRA Special Revolutionary Court, based on Article 56 of the DRA Basic Principles -- the temporary constitution of the DRA -- heard arguments on criminal allegations against Ahmad Shah Masud brought against the accused by the DRA special prosecutor. After assessing criminal documents on the accused, substantial evidence, as well as the eye witnesses accounts by Muhammad Hasan from Parwan Province and shopkeeper in Charikar city; Dad Hoda, restaurant owner in Charikar city ,living in Parwan Province; and Sarajuddin from Parwan Province -- which indicated the inhuman and un-Islamic deeds of Ahmad Shah Masud's band against the innocent people of the Parwan and Kapisa Province -- the following was decided:

The DRA Special Revolutionary Court, after reviewing the allegations against Ahmad Shah Masud, son of Dost Muhammad, leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami counterrevolutionary band in Panjsher District, in consideration of Articles 273 and 275 of the DRA Penal Code, identified him as the enemy of the prosperity and tranquility of the Afghan people and a tool of the undeclared imperialism and enemies of Afghanistan. In view of his murdering and imprisoning the country's innocent people, destroying and setting fire to public property, serving imperialist espionage organizations, creating an atmosphere of fear among the people, and committing economic sabotage, he was sentenced in accordance with Articles 175 and 176, and paragraph 237 of Article 217 of the Penal Code and Article 118 of the same.

The DRA Special Revolutionary Court, in accordance with Articles 175 and 176, sentenced the accused Ahmad Shah Masud to the severest punishment: death.

The BIA correspondent reports that since 1350 [1971] Ahmad Shah Masud has been at the service of imperialist espionage organizations. He took part in intimidating terrorist actions in 1354 [1975]. He took refuge in the bosom of his masters in Pakistan. He was appointed as a leader of the Jamiyat band in Parwan Province in 1359 (1978-79].

Under the instructions of this criminal, many crimes inside the country and in its borders have been committed, for example, the burning of 52 schools in the Parwan and Kapisa Provinces, the transfer of natural resources from the country abroad, and soaking 445 people of the Panjsher District in blood.

Further Details

LD161826 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] The correspondent of BIA, reporting from the proceedings of the trial in absentia of the chieftains of the counterrevolutionary bands which continued into the afternoon, states that the charges attributed to Muhammad Panah, son of Muhammad Amir, inhabitant of Safid Chehr, Hesa-e Awal Subdistrict, Panjsher District, Parwan Province, at present deputy to Ahmad Shah Masud and military commander of the Jamiyat band in the Salang region, were presented to the judicial panel. The court, after careful consideration and assessment of the accused's relevant documents, facts and eyewitnesses, has pronounced Muhammad Panah guilty.

At this session Muhammad Ghafur, son of Sa'adat Mir, who had been under arrest by the band of Muhammad Yunis; Abdorra'uf son of Abdul Elyas, inhabitant of Panjsher District; Abdul Maruf, son of Muhammad Azim, driver of AFSOTR transport enterprise; Gol Ahmad, son of Say Ahmad and Sayd Alim, son of Gol Alam, drivers of AFSOTR Transport enterprise, who were eyewitnesses to the crimes of Jamiyat-e Eslami band in the Salang highway and saw directly the plunder of property and wealth of the people by the Muhammad Panah group, all gave their testimony before the judicial panel of the DRA Special Revolutionary Court.

In consideration of Articles 273 and 275 of the DRA Penal Code, the DRA Special Revolutionary Court tried the accused in his absence and regarded him guilty and sentenced him because of his animosity to the April Revolution and the people of Afghanistan, collaboration with the Western intelligence services, and actions contrary to the amnesty decree of the Revolutionary Council Presidium and values of the decisions of the High Tribal Council and Loya Jirgah which are the credible national documents and foundations for the national reconciliation in the country.

Muhammad Panah, military commander of Jamiyat-e Eslami band in the Salang region, who is an accomplice to the espionage crimes of the intelligence services of the imperialist countries, in view of the explicit version of Article 175 of the Penal Code and in view of the documents presented by the prosecutor in accordance with Articles 175, 177 and 395 of the Penal Code was charged with armed resistance against the country's Armed Forces and treachery against the interest of the revolution and people of Afghanistan in consideration of Articles 175, 176 and 395 of the DRA Penal Code.

The correspondent of BIA continues in his report that Muhammad Panah, son of Muhammad Amir, became a member of anti-Islamic Jamiyat band in 1357 [year beginning March 1978] through Ahmad Shah Masud and in 1358 was appointed as military commander of the Jamiyat band in view of his shameless services for the intelligence services of the United States and other imperialist countries, merciless murder and killing of the people.

He has shown outstanding zeal in plundering the property and wealth of the people and government enterprises which are being transported along the Salang highway. Violation of the people's honor is one of his major characteristics. Tens of private and government transport vehicles have been burned down by the men of this criminal.

The study of the dossiers containing charges against these accused indicate that initiation of criminal proceedings against each of these accused has taken place in accordance with the Law on Discovery and Investigation, demands made by letters from a large number of the country's toiling people, and direct contacts of the revolutionary government by those injured through the criminal action of these criminals, regarding the trial in absentia of these [criminals] and their conviction as traitors to the homeland, revolution and people.

PDPA CC Sends Condolence Message on Le Duan's Death

LD130846 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 13 Jul 86

[Text] Kabul, July 12, *Bakhtar* — The Central Committee of the PDPA has sent a condolence message to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam on the death of Le Duan, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The message has called the death of Le Duan a great loss for the progressive mankind. The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, adds the message, holds in high esteem his devotion for the consolidation of revolutionary movement of the world working class and the expansion of relations between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Award Presented to Outgoing USSR Ambassador

LD111740 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Jul 86

[Text] With the approval of the DRA Revolutionary Council, the April Revolution Medal was presented yesterday to Comrade Fikryat Akhmedzhanovich Tabeyev, the USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Kabul, whose term in office in the DRA is concluded, at a ceremony in gratitude for his

worthy and valuable role in broadening and consolidating the fraternal friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and his all-round cooperation, which has contributed significantly to the successful progress of the revolution.

At the ceremony held yesterday afternoon by the DRA Council of Ministers in honor of Comrade Fikryat Akhmedzhanovich Tabeyev in the reception hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, spoke on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee and expressed gratitude for the formidable services of Comrade Tabeyev, a friend of the people of Afghanistan, in the task of broadening Afghan-Soviet friendship and cooperation and his valuable role in the consolidation of that friendship. Comrade Babrak Karmal, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, then pinned the April Revolution Medal on Comrade Tabeyev.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, and members of the Politburo and secretaries of the party Central Committee, members of the PDPA Central Committee, several members of the PDPA Central Committee, a number of the members of the DRA Council of Ministers, and some personnel of the USSR Embassy in Kabul took part in the ceremony.

U.S. Provides Pakistan With Data on Soviet Planes

LD140628 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT 14 Jul 86

[Text] Kabul, July 13, *Bakhtar* On the pretext of the critical situation in the border regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan, the USA puts military information about the USSR-made planes at the disposal of Pakistan, says an article carried by daily *HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR*.

The daily adds that China and Pakistan have requested Washington to render assistance in substituting the project of F-6 planes (previously MiG-19) by F-7 planes, which are due to be produced in Pakistan. Western experts have stated that the Pakistan Air Force will thus be able to modernise its "defence force" with less cost.

The Chinese hegemonists are moving on their voracious line of interest in the triangle of Washington, Islamabad and Beijing. Beijing has not hesitated from the very beginning in assisting Pakistan in the development of nuclear bomb. The rulers of China, who once deafened the world public with their revolutionary hue and cry, are completely satisfied when Pakistan is changed into a major base of imperialism in the region.

Anti-Sovietism and expansionism of Chinese hegemonists necessitate that an oppressive regime dominate Pakistan in a bid to crush liberation movements of the people of Pakistan, [and conduct] interference and encroachments in the internal affairs of sovereign countries, in particular, the DRA and India.

As the alliances and pacts established by the US imperialism in different regions of the world, have not been able to survive vis-a-vis the will of the people, the destiny of the sinister triangle of Washington, Beijing and Islamabad will undoubtedly not be an exception, the daily concludes.

Paghman District Operation Nets Missiles, Ammunition

LD161748 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] A BIA correspondent reports that as a result of an operation by the country's security forces which were recently mounted in the Paghman District in order to clean the environs of that district from the filth of the counterrevolution, 12 surface-to-surface missiles, 2 medium-range rocket launchers, along with 15 missiles, 11 kalashnikovs, and 1,000 rounds belonging to the criminal Eslami band were seized by the security forces.

By-Election in 7 Constituencies Slated for 26 Aug

BK151223 Dhaka BSS in English 1158 GMT 15 Jul 86

[Text] Dhaka, July 15, BSS — Bangladesh Election Commission yesterday announced the schedule of by-elections in seven parliamentary constituencies where fresh balloting had been necessitated due to vacation of seats by candidates who won from more than one seat. Under the schedule, election will be held in these seats on August 26.

President Returns From Visit to India 16 Jul

BK161731 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Excerpt] President Ershad came back home a short while ago at the end of his 3-day state visit to India. On arrival, President and Begum Raushan Ershad were received at the Zia International Airport by two DCMLA's [deputy chief martial law administrator], Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed and Air Marshal Sultan Mahmud, and the prime minister, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury. Also present at the airport to receive him were ministers, diplomats, high civil and military officials. [Passage omitted]

Dhaka Commentary on Visit

BK160456 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1540 GMT 15 Jul 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Early solution of the outstanding problems between India and Bangladesh in the best spirit of understanding was stressed by both President Zail Singh of India and President Ershad at the banquet given by the Indian president for the visiting Bangladesh president at New Delhi yesterday.

The Indian president described the relations between India and Bangladesh as close, friendly, and cordial with some differences in perception.

President Ershad reciprocated the feelings of his host and pointed out friendship between the two countries is a geopolitical imperative and there is so much that the two countries have in common and so much they can achieve working together in close cooperation.

President Ershad, as is expected, devoted more time to SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] in his banquet speech, saying endeavors by the member nations of SARC could further consolidate the accomplishments and prepare ground for more dynamic phase of cooperation.

President Ershad said SARC is a symbol, an expedient, and a vehicle, which can only be what we wish it to be. There is a need for collective realization of its full potential. Harmony of views may not be possible, but the nations can surely strive for a symphony of hearts and ends. SARC has underscored the commonalities and affinities that could bring the seven member-states closer to one another.

President Ershad said we have historical and cultural ties. We are faced with common problems of poverty and underdevelopment. The SARC nations can tackle the common problems with greater vigor and strength and march toward common goal with more confidence and faith.

President Ershad in his banquet speech recalled the Indian support during our war of liberation and said India was a staunch ally in our time of trial and adversity. Dhaka-Delhi relations are excellent and both are committed to the cause of peace and development. There is a similarity of views on foreign policy, with both the nations adhering to the principles of nonalignment and the United Nations.

President Ershad also spoke of his government's policies of taking the administration to the people and reestablishing democracy in the country.

President Zail Singh, who devoted major portion of his speech to the present state of bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh, spoke of India's earnest desire to work for further improvement of India's relation with Bangladesh and sought solution to all problems in a spirit of cooperation. The Indian president stressed the need for redoubling the Indo-Bangladesh efforts at further expanding and diversifying the bilateral relations. Expanding bilateral cooperation, as also regional cooperation under the SARC, will be of great mutual benefit and will contribute to the efforts of both the countries to build a better life for the peoples of India and Bangladesh.

President Zail Singh expressed confidence that President Ershad's visit to India will make an important contribution in that direction. He expressed indebtedness to Bangladesh for the inspiration that led to the launching of SARC.

There was a summit-level meeting between President Ershad and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The meeting was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. The two leaders discussed SARC and bilateral issues. Such meeting is always beneficial. It brings the leaders closer together and enables them to know each other's mind directly. Exchange of views at the summit level clear any mistrust that may exist between two sides.

Since President Ershad's current visit is mainly related to SARC affairs, no solution to bilateral problems should be expected. But the round of talks at the summit, ministerial, and official levels will pave the way for future discussion and their final solution. Let Indo-Bangladesh relations be everlasting.

USSR's Kapitsa To Arrive Delhi 17 Jul

BK161521 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1505 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] Press briefing by official spokesman on July 16, 1986: The official spokesman during press briefing on July 16 said that Mikhail Kapitsa, deputy foreign minister of USSR, is visiting Delhi as special envoy of general secretary of the CPSU, Mikhail Gorbachev. Kapitsa will be arriving on morning of July 17 and will be in capital till July 19.

During his visit Kapitsa will call on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi; Minister for External Affairs Shiv Shankar; Chairman of Policy Advisory Committee G. Parthasarathi; and Minister of State Narayanan. He will also hold discussions with foreign secretary, A. P. Venkateswaran.

AFP: India To Purchase MiG-29's From Soviet Union

BK140827 Hong Kong AFP in English 0827 GMT 14 Jul 86

[Text] New Delhi, July 14 (AFP) — The Soviet Union has agreed to provide India with MiG-29's, the most sophisiticated fighter-bomber in Moscow's arsenal, the *United News of India* (UNI) reported.

The defence minister here refused to confirm or deny the UNI report. "No comment," ministry spokesman A.K. Roy said when asked about the UNI report that Moscow and New Delhi had signed a "memorandum of understanding" for a "substantial" number of MiG-29 fulcrum aircraft.

The exact number of the warplanes to be delivered was not specified, but the news agency said Sunday that several dozen other MiG-29's would be assembled in India. If the deal goes through, India would be the first foreign country equipped with the MiG-29, which can fly at over twice the speed of sound within an operating radius of 1,150 kilometers (930 miles).

Moscow's Warsaw Pact allies do not even have the plane, military analysts said, although it is built to rival the U.S.-made F-16 and F-18 flown or ordered by some U.S. allies in Asia and Western Europe.

Winding up the contract followed nearly two years of negotiations, which Western military attaches said were centered on its value — which was not disclosed — and on the type of electronics to be installed in the planes.

The Indian Air Force already has several types of Soviet planes in its fleet of 846 combat aircraft, including MiG-21's, MiG-23's and MiG-25's, according to the authoritative International Institute of Strategic Studies in London. It also operates several Andropoy transport planes, according to the institute.

The MiG-29's are expected to be delivered around mid-1988, although it is believed that the Indian Air Force initially wanted to get the plane before receiving French Mirage-2000's. Forty of the 49 Mirage-2000's ordered by New Delhi had been delivered by the end of June.

Military analysts recalled that India has embarked on a major modernization of its Armed Forces to counterbalance recent U.S. arms shipments to neighboring Pakistan. The two countries have been at war three times since British colonial rule ended in 1947, and tensions are still said to be high along the Indo-Pakistani border in Kashmir.

Gandhi Claims Pakistan Behind Punjab Terrorism

BK161606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] According to a message just received, the prime minister said that we not only have confirmation about the training of extremists in Pakistan, but there is much more evidence to show the Pakistani hand behind the terrorist activities in Punjab. Mr Rajiv Gandhi made these observations at a meeting with leaders of different groups and parties in parliament in New Delhi today on the eve of the monsoon session.

The prime minister said whatever the facts about the Pakistani hand, we have to ensure that the source of information about this is not harmed. He said this issue has been raised with Pakistan in various forums, including his meeting with President Ziaul Haq. Reports of the speech are still coming in.

Further Details

BK170515 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jul 86

[Text] The prime minister has said that India has much more evidence about training of terrorists in Punjab by Pakistan than obtained from the confessions of the extremists already nabbed. Mr Rajiv Gandhi conveyed this information to the leaders of the opposition parties and groups in parliament in New Delhi yesterday on the eve of the monsoon session. He said information on this subject cannot be released as it might harm the sources. He pointed out that India had given details of the training camps to Pakistan but the Zia government had denied it.

The opposition leaders expressed concern at the foreign support to extremists and communalists. They demanded a white paper on the subject. They also wanted the government to publish evidence about training of extremists by Pakistan.

About the Chinese intrusion into Arunachal Pradesh, the prime minister told the opposition leaders that India had lodged a strong protest with the Beijing government. China says that the area lies on their side of the McMahon line. The issue will be taken up at the forthcoming India-China talks. A full statement on this will also be made in Parliament.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi informed the opposition that the government had persuaded the Sri Lankan Tamil leaders to restart discussions because it felt that the proposals of the Sri Lankan president offered a basis for a dialogue. But it was for the parties concerned to arrive at a solution.

The opposition leaders were told that the government is ready with a bill on voluntary uniform civil code. A bill to strengthen

provisions against denigration of women in films and magazines will also be brought before the parliament.

Referring to the killings in Arwal and Kansar in Bihar, the prime minister suggested that there should be an all-party consensus on implementation of land reforms to avoid such incidents. The opposition leaders agreed to consider these suggestions.

About the Commonwealth games, the opposition leaders were of the view that India should withdraw from the games to fall in line with the African countries on the issue. The prime minister informed them that he is awaiting a decision from the African nations.

The prime minister also announced that an all-party committee is being set up to celebrate the 40th anniversary of India's independence next year. The government side was represented, among others, by the ministers for home, finance, and external affairs. The opposition parties which took part in the meeting included CPI-M, CPI, Telugu Desam, Janata Party, Bharatiya Janata Party, Lok Dal, DMK, National Conference, Forward Bloc, Revolutionary Socialist Party, Peasants Workers Party, Assam United Minorities Front, and the Muslim League.

Team Departure for Commonwealth Games Delayed

BK141619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jul 86

[Text] The departure of the Indian contingent for the Commonwealth games has been deferred. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the decision to this effect has been taken by the government which has taken note of the fact that some of the African countries have decided to boycott the games. The games are scheduled to start in Edinburgh on the 24th of this month.

Paper Urges Action on Games

BK161545 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1532 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] *The Times of India* of 16 July in editorial titled "No Creeping Sanctions," says: At an extraordianry meeting, governing body of Commonwealth games which are scheduled to begin next week at Edinburgh has decided to disqualify two South African-born sportswomen from competing for England. Decision is plainly calculated to preempt mass boycott of games by African and other Third World states opposed to apartheid in South Africa and in particular to Britain's reluctance to impose economic sanctions against Pretoria regime.

Other developments of past fortnight merely confirm fact of growing determination of number of states and of South Africa's black leaders to pursue goal of sanctions. Thatcher's latest move to stave off sanctions by sending Geoffrey Howe to South Africa has all but come a cropper. Bishop Desmond Tutu told Howe that he has no intention of wasting his time discussing irrelevant issues.

There is not the least doubt that overwhelming majority of international community is in favour of measures that will dismantle and not reform apartheid. Even Frontline States have begun to lose some of their reluctance to opt for strong action against South Africa and some other Third World countries are contemplating sanctions against or otherwise mounting pressure on Britain. Regrettably, India is not one of them nor is it playing leadership role that is legitimately expected of it within Commonwealth. New Delhi should seize initiative and systematically build up water-tight case for stiff and comprehensive sanctions.

Gandhi Pays Homage to Le Duan in Parliament

BK170926 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 86

[Excerpts] Both houses of parliament adjourned for the day on the opening day of the monsoon session today after paying homage to Mr Jagjivan Ram, Mr Chandrasekhar Singh, and eight other former members. The Lok Sabha also mourned the death of Mr Le Duan, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam. [passage omitted] Paying tributes to the Vietnamese leader, the prime minister described Mr Le Duan as a great revolutionary and architect in the reconstruction of Vietnam. He said Le Duan was a great friend of India. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh President Ends 'Very Fruitful' Visit

BK160927 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] The Bangladesh president, General Ershad, arrived in Jaipur this morning by special aircraft. From the airport he left for Ajmer where he will offer prayers at the dargah [shrine] on Khaja Moinuddin Chishti before leaving for Bangladesh via Calcutta. Earlier this morning President Ershad was given a warm send off when he left New Delhi. The president, Giani Zail Singh, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, union ministers and diplomats were at the airport to see him off. An inter-service guard of honor was presented and a 21-gun salute given to the dignitary.

General Ershad told newsmen at the airport that his visit to India has been very fruitful. He said modalities have been found to resolve outstanding issues between the two countries. General Ershad said both the countries want to remove irritants which stood in the way of good neighbors. About the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SARC] he said we have exchanged views on its future. He expressed the hope that the SARC will be strengthened by his visit.

Commentary Welcomes Economic Ties With Pakistan

BK111439 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 11 Jul 86

[Commentary: "Indo-Pakistan Economic Cooperation]

[Text] The Indo-Pakistan accord on a program of mutual cooperation in agricultural research signed last week is a landmark in the long drawn out effort of the two countries toward normal-

ization of relations and resumption of trade after the 1971 war. It is significant that while efforts over the last several years at the official and ministerial levels toward the resumption of trade have not yet borne fruit, the meeting of the Indo-Pakistan joint commission held last year resulted in an agreement on cooperation in agricultural research and in the finalization of a draft agreement on cultural exchange program.

The scientists of the two countries, who met last week in pursuance of the agreement, identified a wide range of areas for cooperation in a 2-year work plan on agricultural research. The areas include horticulture, rice, cotton and pulses production, livestock production and health, farm water management, aquaculture, biological control of pests and diseases, and plant genetic resources.

Signing the minutes, the director general of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Dr M.S. Randhawa, and chairman of the Pakistan agricultural council, Dr Amir Mohammad, expressed the hope that this would mark the beginning of a fruitful cooperation between the agricultural scientists of the two countries. Dr Mohammad commended the progress made by India in various fields of agriculture, particularly the infrastructure for agricultural research and education built in the country.

It speaks of the statesmanship of the leaders of the two countries that in their effort to normalize relations they have chalked out a program which concentrates on areas such as research, cultural relations in trade where agreement is relatively easy to achieve, leaving more complex issues to the heads of state and government for settlement at a later date. A great deal of headway has been made in the promotion of trade following the visit to this country of the Pakistan minister for economic affairs, Mr Mahbubul Haq, in November last year and the visit of the Indian finance minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, to Pakistan early this year. The major achievement of the meeting was the opening up of the private sector trade between the two countries without routing Indian exports through the trading corporation of Pakistan. This has been the major demand of the private sector in both the countries.

The second decision which holds promise of increased trade is the proposed enlargement of the list of items that could be exchanged between the two countries. Another hopeful sign is the desire of either side to set up joint ventures in the other. About the enlargement of the items of trade against the current list of 42 items that could be supplied by India, proposals are on the anvil to identify about 200 to 300 items. Already some 75 items that Pakistan is interested in importing from India and another 100 items that it could export to India have been identified.

The main items of Indian exports to Pakistan are tea, iron ore, bidi leaves, tamarind and [words indistinct]. The major items of imports from Pakistan are urea, rock salt, dates and cotton. Of the 42 items meant for export to Pakistan, India does not export 8, while the import of another 10 items by Pakistan is negligible, thereby leaving only 24 items for effective trade. From the expanded list, therefore, the remaining 20 [figure as heard] items would be excluded.

It is hoped that accord on areas of cooperation in agricultural research would mark a happy turn of events in the relations between the two countries and would lead to a substantial increase in the volume of trade to touch the level of 5 billion rupees envisaged in 1983. This in turn will pave the way for a political settlement in the form of a treaty of peace and friendship proposed by India resulting in cordial and brotherly relations between the people of the two countries who belonged to the same cultural and ethnic stock and have close historical background.

PAKISTAN

Noorani Comments on Border Clashes With India

BK151545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jul 86

[Text] The Senate was informed during question time this afternoon that the Indian Armed Forces have so far committed 148 cease-fire violations along the Jammu and Kashmir line of control this year, while 321 violations were committed last year.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, answering several supplementary questions, stated categorically that Pakistani forces have not violated the line of control intentionally as a retaliatory measure. He added, however, that of course there have been clashes some times at the local level when forces of the two sides confronted each other. But these matters were settled at either the local commander or higher levels.

The state minister for foreign affairs said that Indian forces have not captured any Pakistani territory in the Siachen Glacier region during the last 3 months.

Prime Minister Junejo Pays Visit to FRG

For coverage of the visit to the FRG which began 13 July by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, including his meeting with FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his comments on the USSR proposal to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the 15 July Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Afghan Rebels Attack Government Forces in Herat Area

BK161039 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say Afghan mujahidin launched attacks on the Soviet-Kabul troops in (Rorian), (Pul-e-Sanghi) and (Gujral) areas of Herat Province recently. A large number of Soviet-Kabul troops are reported killed or injured, while two tanks were also damaged. Besides, a huge quantity of arms were also seized by the Afghan mujahidin.

SRI LANKA

Further on Proposals For Solving 'Ethnic Problem'

President on Provincial Councils

BK161157 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene has announced the setting up of five committees as a coordinating group to go into various aspects of the proposals put forward to find a lasting solution to the ethnic problem. The president announced this at the political parties conference held in Colombo yesterday.

President Jayewardene, who is also the chairman of the political parties conference, in a statement said that he had met the representatives of the political parties who attended the first session of the conference held on 25 June, 1986. They are willing to be made available to the representatives of the other parties. He said all except for the All Ceylon Tamil Congress accepted the provincial council system within the present nine provincial boundaries.

SLFP Rejects New Proposals

BK161129 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] The main opposition party, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP], had insisted that the government seek a mandate from the people before implementing the latest proposals to solve the ethnic problem. Explaining the reasons for rejecting the government's proposals in a 10-page statement, the SLFP has charged that the government has misquoted the late S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike in claiming that he was associated with the thinking behind the establishment of the provincial council system.

The party notes that the new proposals involve such a (?mean tact) on the sovereignty of the people that the very foundation of the constitution would appear to be in great danger.

SLFP Demand for Poll Rejected

BK161709 Hong Kong AFP in English 1704 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] Colombo, July 16 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Government Wednesday rejected an opposition demand for a poll on its plan to grant the island's Tamil minority limited autonomy.

President Junius Jayewardene, in a terse three-line reply to the leader of the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), said Wednesday that he would "consider holding a general election in 1989." Mr Jayewardene also told SLFP leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike, that he would place SLFP proposals on the Tamil situation before a political parties' conference which is due to meet again Friday.

In a 10-page letter Tuesday, Mrs Bandaranaike said the plan to create elected provincial councils to give more political say to the 2.5-million Tamil minority threatened "the very foundation" of the country's constitution. Mrs Bandaranaike, a former prime minister, said breaking up a small country into nine provincial councils would be politically harmful, economically unmanageable and culturally disruptive.

Meanwhile, the government and the main Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation front (TULF), met again Wednesday and discussed land policies under the proposed autonomy plan. TULF General-Secretary Appapillai Amirthalingam told *Agence France-Presse* after the talks that the two sides "agreed to adjustments and new formulations" on land matters for consideration at later discussions. Mr Amirthalingam declined to disclose what these new formulations were, but added that the TULF will be meeeting Mr Jayewardene again Thursday.

Meanwhile, two persons were reported killed and two others wounded when a time-bomb attached to a parked motorcycle exploded Tuesday at Kalawanchikudy, in the eastern Batticaloa District, police said.

Hundreds of Sri Lankans have died as government troops combat militant Tamil guerrillas, who are demanding an independent state to end what they consider discrimination by the country's Sinhalese majority.

On Tuesday, the TULF met with Mr Jayewardene for two hours to discuss the security situation in the north and east. The TULF was understood to have taken up the issue of Tamils killed or detained by security forces.

Meanwhile, a second government-sponsored conference involving eight political parties — and boycotted by the SLFP — was to continue its deliberations, well-informed sources said. The conference was split Tuesday into five committees to examine various aspects of devolving powers to the new councils, they said.

Government To Reformulate Proposals

BK170549 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jul 86

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government has agreed to reformulate some of the proposals with regard to the vexed issue of land settlemen. for resolving the ethnic problem. This follows talks between a Tamil United Liberation Front delegation and the lands minister, Mr Gamini Dissanayake, in Colombo yesterday.

The TULF secretary general, Mr Amirthalingam, said further talks on the issue were put off to enable the minister to reformulate some of the proposals on teh basis of the discussions. He added the TULF delegation will continue its discussions on general devolution [of powers] with President Jayewardene today.

TULF Committed to 'Democratic Process'

BK161141 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] is committed totally to the democratic process and nothing else. This was stated by Mr A. Amirthalingam, secretary general of the TULF, in an interview with the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation. He said that the TULF had to consult and hold discussions with the militant groups because if any solution that is worked out is to be implemented, the militants had to be taken into consideration.

Mr Amirthalingam emphasized they had decided to negotiate directly with President Jayewardene and the government. He added they have sufficient contact with the various political parties and know their thinking on this matter. While negotiating with the government, they intend to get in touch with the other political parties. Having discussions with them individually [words indistinct] pursuing them to agree to any solution that they may be worked out. [as heard]

Mr Amirthalingam disclosed that the TULF had had discussions with the government on the proposals. The first discussion was of a preliminary nature. Specific matters were discussed last Monday. Discussions with the militant groups were held in Madras before the TULF proceeded to New Delhi for discussions with the Indian Government.

Jaffna Residents Protest Permit System With Strike

BK170900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, normal life was paralyzed in northern Jaffna town yesterday as the people observed a hartal [strike]. The strike was in protest against the permit system introduced by the army for all lorries and buses going into or out of the northern peninsula. Local residents said the hartal was total with offices, schools and shops remaining closed and vehicles off the roads.

The call was given by the lorry owners' association and Muslim traders association. More than 250 lorries and private buses drove in a procession to the offices of the government's agents and submitted a memorandum protesting against the permit system.

Security Forces Kill 16 'Terrorists' 16 Jul

BK171137 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jul 86

[Text] Sixteen terrorists died in a clash with the security forces at (Padogawa) in Trincomalee yesterday morning. According to the Ministry of National Security, a security forces foot patrol was moving from (Kavekanchan) when it was (?fired upon) by the terrorists, who were lying ambushed in the jungle. The security forces returned fire, killing 16 terrorists, of whom 1 was a female.

Bangladesh President Due 24 Jul on Official Visit

BK141125 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jul 86

[Text] Bangladesh President Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad will arrive in Sri Lanka on a 3-day official visit commencing on 24 July. Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that General Ershad, who leads the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SARC], is expected to have bilateral talks with President Jayewardene and other ministers. He is also expected discuss matters pertaining to SARC activities.

Draft Pipeline Agreement With Turkey Signed

LD161458 Tehran IRNA in English 1406 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] Ankara, July 16, IRNA — A draft [agreement] to build a $4.3 billion oil pipeline between Iran and Turkey was signed here Wednesday by representatives of the two countries.

Shortly after the draft was signed, Iran's Oil Ministry official Mr. Asemipur said the 1,900 km pipeline extends from the southern Iranian Province of Khuzestan to the Turkish port of Alexandria on the eastern Mediterranean coast.

Iran will provide $2.5 billion and Turkey $1.8 billion for the four-year project. The pipeline is expected to transfer one million barrels of crude oil a day.

He said another pipeline will take Iran's gas to Europe via Turkey but its capacity will be determined later when marketing and other relevant factors are settled with European customers.

Final agreement will be signed by Iranian and Turkish officials in the forthcoming visit of Turkey's Minister of State of Executive Affairs Mustafa Tinaz Titiz to Tehran on July 20. Iran is to provide pipe the for the project.

Prime Minister Comments on Effect of Oil Price Drop

LD161158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] During today's session of the cabinet, Mr Qara'ati, the imam's representative in the Literacy Movement, presented a report on this movement's programs for uprooting illiteracy in government departments. The cabinet, while emphasizing that the responsibility for learning to read and write should be shared by the movement and all ministries, made some decisions on ways of establishing links between the literacy movement and ministries. The cabinet expressed hope that by the end of the year 1366 [corresponding to 20 March 1988] there would be no illiterate persons left in government departments.

During today's session, an amendment note on the regulations related to identification and arrest of the absent conscripts was also approved. The cabinet also approved to allocate 2 billion rials for the expenditure of the imposed war and 400 million rials for the fight against bandits and smugglers to the Islamic Revolution Committee.

At the conclusion of today's session of the cabinet, Prime Minister Musavi made some remarks on the oil policies of some oil-producing countries and their role in the intensification of the oil price fall crisis. We draw your attention to his remarks.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Musavi, in less than 2 weeks time there will be a session of the OPEC oil ministers and as the price of oil has fallen below $10, some countries such as Saudi Arabia are producing more than 6 million barrels per day in order to worsen the existing adverse oil market. Why have these countries made such a decision and what would its effect be on the people of these countries?

[Musavi] These countries have demonstrated that they do not enjoy an independent stance and usually follow the policies that are dictated to them. Previous OPEC sessions have proved this claim, although this problem has inflicted heavy damage on their own nations and other oil-producing countries. We, therefore, are always suspicious of these affairs.

As far as we are concerned, we continue to protest against the situation and continue exposing such regimes which have submitted about $100 billion to Reagan's government and other arrogant powers. However, we shall try not to be influenced inside the country by decisions of those states.

We, in accordance with our analyses, are following a particular economic plan and are moving ahead. Of course, we shall continue our struggle world-wide to increase oil price, but we shall continue our campaign without any fluctuation or effect on our economic decisions. If necessary, we might make both political and economic decisions in order to minimize the oil market's effect on our national economy.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Economic Delegation Leaves For Visit to PRC

LD161750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] Mir Mirzadeh, executive assistant to the prime minister, left for Beijing this afternoon bearing messages from the president of the Republic, the Majlis speaker, and from the prime minister addressed to high-ranking Chinese authorities. He was accompanied by a delegation of economic experts. Prior to his departure from Tehran he gave an interview to a Central News Unit correspondent to which we now draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Could you please tell us about your delegation and what your talks with the Chinese authorities will concern from the economic point of view?

[Mirzadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In view of strengthening ties and relations between the two important and powerful Asian countries, China and Iran, and in view of the fact that our stands on a great many foreign policy issues are identical, and following the visit by the esteemed speaker of the Majlis last year which was a turning point in our bilateral relations, joint meetings will be held in this year between the two countries — the Islamic Republic of Iran and the PRC — in Beijing.

The purpose of this visit is to implement the aims of the agreements between the two countries, finalizing them, and translating into action the memoranda of understanding in various areas in the course of bilateral relations. The major part of this cooperation lies in the trade, economic, and technical fields. And in view of the course of bilateral relations and the fact that we are carrying messages from the esteemed president of the Republic of Iran, the speaker of the Majlis, and his excellency the esteemed prime minister to the leaders of the PRC and that country's (?high-ranking) officials, and in view of the composition of the delegation from the important ministries of economy and

industries and from government organizations, our appraisal is a positive one and we hope to be able to begin a new move toward strengthening ties and relations between the two countries. [end recording]

Visiting Romanian Delegation Meets With Musavi

LD161843 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Wednesday that the superpowers' arms race is definitely against the interests of Third World countries.

"Iran believes all nations of the world have the right of self determination," Musavi said, adding that the Islamic Republic opposes all forms of hegemony and interference of the big powers in the affairs of other countries. The premier made the statements in a meeting with visiting Romanian Minister of Electrical Power Ioan Avram.

On Tehran-Bucharest relations Musavi said there are considerable grounds for expansion of political and economic relations between the two countries. He said they should be exploited in the best interest of the Iranian and Romanian peoples.

Meanwhile, issues concerning the Saveh Dam and energy transfer network in West Iran were discussed in the second round of talks between Ioan Avram and Iranian Energy Minister Mohammad Taqi Banki here on the same day. Irano-Romanian technical experts were also present at the meeting.

Construction work of the Saveh Dam began in 1983 and is expected to be completed by 1988. The dam is being built over the Qara-Chai River in south-east Saveh, Central Province. It has a utilizable capacity of 270 million cubic meters and can provide water for 7,000 hectares of farmland when completed.

Official Interviewed on Smuggling of Drugs, Goods

LD131414 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jul 86

[Text] The deputy general commander of the Islamic Revolution Committees, in an interview with correspondents this morning, elaborated on the duties of the committees of the Islamic Revolution. These duties include fighting drug trafficking, establishing and guarding security, fighting against deeds discouraged by Islam and supervising public places. He said that this institution has begun large-scale efforts and has succeeded in discovering 10 tons of smuggled goods and narcotics in the first 3 months of this year as a part of its anti-smuggling and anti-narcotics operations.

He added that maintaining law and order, closing borders and decisive action are among issues given priority by the Islamic Revolution Committee for maintaining order and for protecting Islamic principles. In order to achieve desired results, an information bank has been created to store information on smugglers. With the necessary cooperation from other law and order establishments, we hope this bank will help in taking more effective steps.

In conclusion, the deputy general commander of Islamic Revolution Committee said that 80 percent of the narcotics enter the country by way of the eastern borders of Sistan va Baluchestan. He said that in order to deal with this problem, apart from serious steps taken to deal with smuggling, closing borders and other geographical obstacles are also effective. Up to now, about 99 percent of the passes situated on the borders of Sistan va Baluchestan on the roads entering the country have been closed and the quantity of smuggled goods entering the country has been reduced to a satisfactory level.

United States To Set Up Islamic Research Centers

LD121842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jul 86

[Text] The United States is to set up two research institutes to survey Islamic movements, one in Egypt and another in Malaysia, reports the weekly *Al-Amal al-Islami*, citing informed sources in (Ben Hampton) University in New York.

The weekly adds that these centers will coordinate with a number of Islamic countries. At the Cairo center Middle East issues, Islamic movements and Arab North African movements will be covered, while at the Malaysian center the same movements throughout the South Asian and the Southeast Asian regions wil be surveyed. Further, at the Cairo center representatives from the governments of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Tunisia and Morocco will be permanently present, while at the Malaysian center Indonesian, Malaysian, Thai and Singaporean representatives will participate.

These two centers will be operated directly under CIA control and with the cooperation of Ben Hampton University, which is under the direction of the U.S. Zionist circles. The same sources add that the objective for setting up these centers is to research Islamic movements, to infiltrate them and, if possible, to undermine them.

It is noted that some time ago informed sources in London revealed that the U.S. Administration intends to set up a number of centers to survey the expansion of revolutionary Islam and confront it. A section of the U.S. State Department and the CIA have been given the responsibility for carrying out this task.

SAIRI Spokesman Issues Statement on Ba'th Anniversary

LD161023 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahmud Hashemi, the SAIRI spokesman, made a statement on the anniversary of the shameful 17 July Ba'th Party coup d'etat in Iraq. The statement says: The date 17 July 1968 brings to mind a shameful coup d'etat by world arrogance mercenaries and the lackeys of the Ba'th Party that cost the freedom of the Muslim people of Iraq.

He adds: By looking at the crime-ridden history of the mercenaries ruling Iraq, which includes the killing of thousands of people and clergymen and the savage expulsion of 1 million Iraqi Muslims, one can fathom the depth of the tragedy befalling the

Iraqi people during the rule of the 'Aflaqists. In another part the statement says, today, Iraq has been turned into a huge prison by Saddam's 'Aflaqist regime. Millions of Muslims in that country are subjected to all kinds of torture and hardship.

He adds: At this sensitive juncture in the history of Iraq's Islamic movement, it is up to the Muslim people of that country to step-up their struggles and to carry out a jihad against the 'Aflaqist beasts, inside and outside that country, punishing these criminals. The glorious operations of the combatants of Islam and the blows dealt by the Muslim revolutionary people of Iraq inside that country have severely shaken the Iraqi regime.

IRGC Minister Rafiqdust Comments on Basij Battalions

LD162011 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has set up least 500 new battalions of fresh Basij (para-military) forces in order to put a victorious and early end to the Iraqi-imposed war, according to the IRGC minister, Mohsen Rafiqdust.

Speaking at a ceremony held in honor of martyrs of "Karbala'-1" operations here Wednesday, the minister said that the IRGC is able to organize 1,000 battalions of such forces.

Rafiqdust also said that, at least 80 percent of weapons and equipment needed for the war is being made in the country. The rate, he said, would shortly rise to 100 percent in a near future.

The IRGC minister added that the Islamic Republic will not allow the oil price conspiracy to dictate its policies.

IRGC Commander Reza'i Stresses Iraq's Weakness

LD160918 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., July 16, IRNA — Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Reza'i, stressed here Tuesday that the Iraqi enemy was in utmost weakness.

Reza'i made the remark in a speech to a large group of IRGC forces and pilgrims to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), [abbreviation of Islamic greeting] the 8th imam of the household of Prophet Mohammad (SAW).

He stressed that due to the conditions of time, if two battalions of combat forces were dispatched to war fronts now, they will be more effective than sending a division by the end of the year.

He said that Iraqi commanders captured in the latest Iranian offensive "Karbala'-1" launched in Mehran area, confessed that Iraq's inability in Mehran to confront the Islamic Forces of Iran was due to fatal blows it received from the Iranian troops in Al-Faw region. In Al-Faw, according to the captured Iraqi commanders, the Iraqi Army has lost some 50 percent of its officers, Reza'i added.

He stressed that victories of the Muslim forces of Iran in Al-Faw proved falsity of the calculations of the enemies of Islam.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,534

LD161611 Tehran IRNA in English 1544 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — At least 80 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and parts of their positions destroyed during heavy artillery and tank fire exchange with Iranian forces on Majnun Islands Tuesday. The Iraqi tank fire was silenced said a military communique here Wednesday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2534 said Iraqi warplanes attempting to attack Iranian naval units and economic installations in the Persian Gulf Tuesday were forced to flee by Iranian jet fighters.

Iraq's Al-Ummayah oil platform suffered heavy damage after being shelled by Iranian naval forces at 1330 (1000 GMT) Tuesday, the communique said.

A large number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and enemy troops sustained heavy damage during exchange of artillery fire in the northwestern fronts of Hajj 'Umran and Sardasht Tuesday.

In Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, the communique said, Iranian Muslim combatants pounded Iraqi positions and enemy supply routes on Tuesday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces reconnoitered Iraqi positions and smashed enemy operations in Dehloran, western fronts, Tuesday inflicting heavy casualties on them and destroying three bunkers and two vehicles.

Iraqi attempts to transport heavy artillery pieces, infantry troops and of armoured units were checked in Sumar, Meymak, and Mehran Tuesday, according to the communique.

Elsewhere, an Iraqi patrol unit incurred heavy casualties and losses and was forced to flee after clashing with Iranian forces in Halaleh, southern fronts, Tuesday.

In Panjwin, the communique said, a number of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters checked by Iranian forces on Tuesday.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded (?and parts) of their positions destroyed in the southern fronts Tuesday when Iranian forces pounded enemy positions, the communique said.